

University of Dundee

Citizen Science Projects (MOOC) 3.2

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Publication date:
2020

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Citation for published version (APA):

Woods, M. (Creator), Coulson, S. (Creator), Ajates, R. (Creator), Amditis, A. (Creator), Cobley, A. (Creator), Domian, D. (Creator), Hager, G. (Creator), Ferri, M. (Creator), Fraisl, D. (Creator), Fritz, S. (Creator), Gold, M. (Creator), Karitsioti, N. (Creator), Masó, J. (Creator), McCallum, I. (Creator), Tomei, G. (Creator), Monego, M. (Creator), Moorthy, I. (Creator), Prat, E. (Creator), Tsertou, A. (Creator), ... Wehn, U. (Creator). (2020). Citizen Science Projects (MOOC) 3.2: Action spotlight: biodiversity. Digital or Visual Products, WeObserve.

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Video type: Talking head

Speaker: Gerid Hager

Filming location: X

Producer: X

Run time: X

Filming date: X

Script	Visuals
[Music]	FutureLearn opening animation
[Music]	WeObserve logo University of Dundee logo
GERID HAGER: The LandSense Citizen Observatory works with BirdLife and their network of volunteers to monitor threats to biodiversity and natural habitats around the world. Together with BirdLife and their partners, we have built Nature Alert, a mobile and web application. The app allows volunteers to report current or historic threats, the severity of the threats, and where it occurs. Volunteers use photos and videos to document threats in key biodiversity areas globally, in Natura 2000 sites in Europe, and in protected areas in other countries, for example, in Indonesia. The volunteer reports trigger real-time alerts to bird life, where response teams can initiate follow-up actions. At the same time, the data from Nature Alert are reported to a global biodiversity database.	
These types of data can help countries monitor their progress, for example, towards reaching their sustainable development goals and other key biodiversity targets. The Spanish Citizen Observatory of GroundTruth 2.0 is built around the observation of biodiversity and of the rhythm of nature in plants and animals. Observers in RitmeNatura provide information not only about the presence of species, but also about the changes of the life cycle through the seasons. This study of seasonal natural phenomena is called phenology. Observers use the mobile app and web platform, Natusphera, to register the date and place where plants are starting to show leaves, flowers, buds, and fruits, where they are losing leaves, and where animals are appearing or going away on their migratory trips.	

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<p>Changes in the rhythms of nature give valuable information about the effects of climate change on natural ecosystems. To better understand these effects, scientists need a long-time series of data which is consistent, validated, and spread geographically throughout the country. And this is why citizen scientists are important. They can help validate existing data, as well as gather large amounts of data over a long time and a wide geographical area. Natusphera is based on iNaturalist, one of the world's most popular nature apps to record biodiversity.</p>	
<p>[Music]</p>	<p>Partner logos</p>